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The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter November 1993

CENTER SCENE

NEW SERVICE CENTER DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Lawrence (Larry) Bembry has been appointed Service Center Director by BLM Director Jim Baca. Bembry is currently the Director, Resources Program and Assessment (National Strategic Planning Staff) for the USDA Forest Service in Washington, DC.

Bembry has worked with the Forest Service since 1986, serving as Director of Human Resource Programs in Washington, DC, and as Deputy Regional Forester in the Pacific Southwest Region before moving to his current position in 1991. Prior to his work with the Forest Service, Bembry served as the Associate Director, Equal Opportunity, for the Office of the Secretary (USDA); Director, Administrative Management, for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and Director, Administration, and Director, Personnel and Civil Rights, for the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board. He has also worked for agencies in the Department of the Interior, including the National Park Service, the Office of Surface Mining, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Bembry has been a member of the Senior Executive Service since 1982.

With an extensive background in administration and on-the-ground natural resource management, Bembry brings a powerful combination of knowledge and experience to the Service Center. He has been involved in human resource issues throughout his career and has received recognition and several awards for his achievements. His nomination states, "(Larry) is an excellent negotiator and creates an environment of participation and collaboration. He is recognized and called upon for his visionary approach to issues and producing creative and workable solutions."

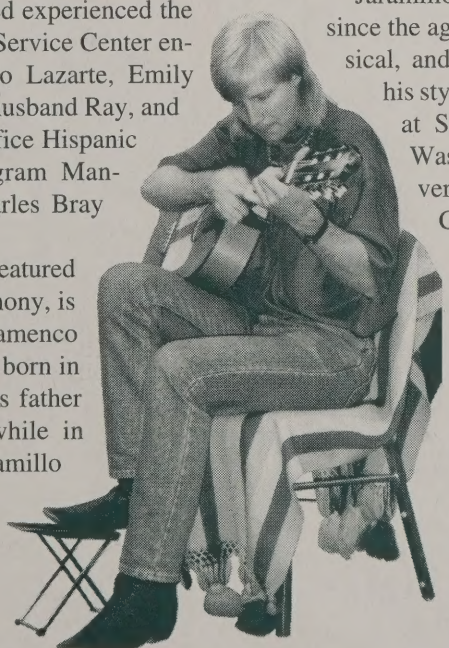
Bembry is looking forward to coming to the Service Center. "I am delighted to begin my work at a time when Government is reinventing itself and the public looks at the Service Center as a lab for reinvention," Bembry said. "It's both a challenge and an honor for me to be a new leader in this important land management agency."

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Bembry is a graduate of the American International College in Massachusetts. He and his wife Carol have two sons living in California and two daughters, both married, living in Maryland. Additionally, they have three grandchildren and another on the way.

ON THE HEP SIDE

• *Hispanic Heritage Month Ends* •

National Hispanic Heritage Month came to an end with a musical ceremony on October 13. Al Wright, Acting Service Center Director, Shae Martinez, and Elaine Borowski hosted the closing ceremony. Those who attended experienced the musical talents of Service Center entertainers Armando Lazarte, Emily Alvarado and her husband Ray, and Colorado State Office Hispanic Employment Program Manager (HEPM) Charles Bray Jaramillo.



Jaramillo, the featured guest for the ceremony, is a distinguished flamenco musician. He was born in England, where his father met his mother while in the Air Force. Jaramillo and his younger brother and sister were raised in Santa Fe, in his father's home state of New Mexico. Jaramillo later moved to Maryland and then to Washington State, where he received his bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from Western Washington University. He moved to Colorado shortly thereafter.

Jaramillo has been playing the guitar since the age of 13. Rock 'n' roll, classical, and flamenco have influenced his style of play. He studied guitar at Seattle University, Western Washington University, and University of Colorado in Boulder. Currently, Jaramillo is studying under the guidance of world renowned flamenco guitarist Rene Heredia. Jaramillo has performed at Muddy's Java Cafe, the Manning Auditorium in Lakewood, the Cinco de Mayo Festival for the Federal Drug Administration, and the Denver Coliseum, and he has produced a professional recording of flamenco music on cassette tape. Jaramillo hopes someday to record on compact disc.

Following the performances, a number of awards were given out by the Hispanic Employment Program (HEP) to those who participated in the ceremony. Afterwards, refreshments were served as Jaramillo continued to entertain.

• *Remembrance of Veterans Begins* •

November is a month for remembering those who have fought for our country. Though some of us are lucky enough not to have lived through the horrors of war, we can learn from the stories of our veterans. One such story particularly hits home for the Service Center's HEPM, Emily Alvarado. Emily's husband Ray is an 82nd Airborne veteran of World War II. Ray survived the air-sea attack by the Germans on the HMS Rohna on November 26, 1943. Over half of his fellow passengers did not survive. We pay tribute to the brave soldiers of the HMS Rohna as we approach the 50th anniversary of this tragic event. They and so many others like them deserve recognition and gratitude this Veteran's Day.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CONTINUE INTO WINTER

Anyone who has run the gauntlet on Seventh Street can attest to the fact that construction projects around Buildings 40 and 50 continue to make life interesting. However, progress *is* being made and even bigger projects are planned for the future.

The paving of Seventh Street and all of the parking lots along it will be completed by early November, according to Richard Leek, GSA's Project Manager. In addition, 800 linear feet of 8-foot-wide sidewalk is replacing a portion of the asphalt walkway along the west side of Seventh Street.

The water retention ponds south of Building 50, which are designed to catch water only during overflow events, have been seeded with grass. Sometime in the future, a softball field may be located in this area. The new road that goes south across the ponds leads to a future building site. Utilities have already been routed to the site, so it's ready to go when needed.

All of the construction work over the past 2 years has been a part of Phases 1 and 2, which together have amounted to $8 million. Phases 3 and 4 will run just under $8 million.

Phase 3, scheduled to kick off in February 1994, will involve the streets and parking areas adjacent to Building 40. However, Phase 4, slated to begin in February 1995, will have the greatest impact on SC employees. Phase 4 will entail repaving the parking lot south of Building 50 as well as all of Fifth Street and the portion of Main Avenue south of Building 50. Musical parking spaces, anyone?

The interrupted demolition of Building 51 has been a topic of conversation for many of us. It turns out that, once the asbestos was removed from the building, a lead-based paint hazard was discovered. Once the lead paint is safely removed, demolition can proceed. Hopefully, by mid-December, Building 51 will be coming down. Once demolition efforts are completed, the site will be graded. Then it will be transformed into parking spaces and a landscaped picnic area. The resulting view from the north windows of Building 50 should be much improved.

After Phase 4 is complete, the Denver Federal Center will have a drainage and street system that meets contemporary municipal and state standards (instead of the random pooling of water and deteriorated pavement that have been the norm in recent years). In addition, wheelchair access will be improved and a more campuslike atmosphere will exist.

All of these ongoing construction projects and financial expenditures demonstrate the Federal Government's long-term commitment to the Denver Federal Center as a key Federal facility for the Rocky Mountain region.

THE *WINDS* OF CHANGE

The winds seem to be blowing harder than ever at the Service Center lately. And they seem to carry whispers of worry with them. "Will I have a job? Will I have to move? I hope they offer early retirement," are common phrases overheard in the hallways.

Service Center employees are awaiting the arrival of the next Service Center Director and are anxious to see how a new leader might impact them. Meanwhile, the revolving door of Acting Directors and Acting Associate Directors keeps spinning, and the employees continue to work diligently to meet, inform, and please them all.

There has been a long string of visitors and new faces at the Service Center—from Finance to EEO to IRM. Many of these faces have been involved in audits, reviews, and studies that may greatly impact Service Center employees, including the National Performance Review and the IRM Organizational Review.

On top of all this, there is a great deal of shuffling within the Service Center. Furniture is on the move and telephone numbers are changing as staffs/employees relocate both within the same building and to other buildings at the Federal Center.

What does all of this mean? Well, Service Center employees have been through change before, and will certainly experience it again. But they are a professional and dedicated bunch—they can weather the storm, whatever comes their way. Remember, change *can* be a good thing!

PERSONNEL NEWS

New Employees:

Frank Andrews, Realty Specialist, SC-651

Veronica Garza, Office Automation Clerk, SC-652

Separations:

Lauren Ritchie, Secretary (Typing), SC-671

The Combined Federal Compaign Continues Through November 15th

CFC...Touching Lives